NEWSLETTER

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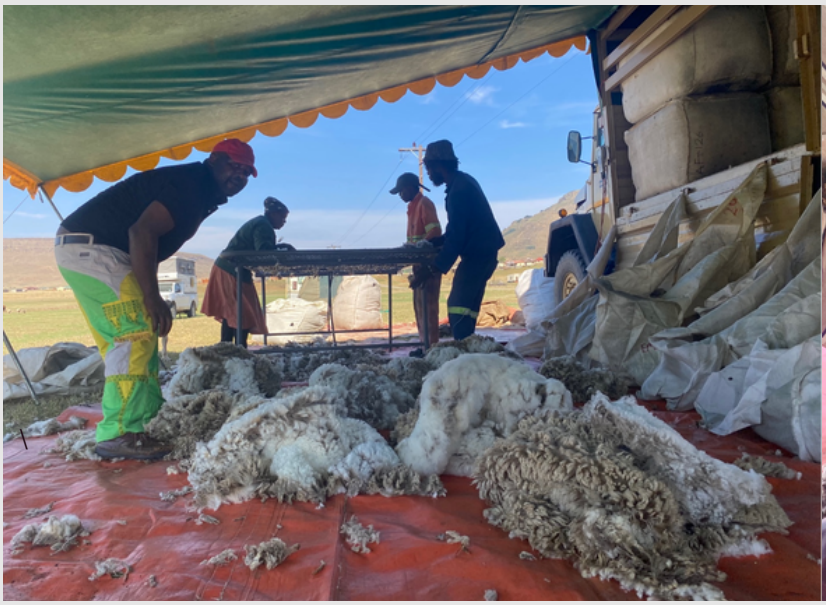
SHEARING SUCCESS, EMPOWERING REMOTE FARMERS, AND REVOLUTIONIZING WOOL PRODUCTION!



In a remarkable display of dedication and efficiency, the Meat Naturally mobile shearing shed has already served over 220 farmers across 11 communities, shearing more than 5,000 sheep in just one month. This impressive milestone comes as the shearing season is only halfway through.

The Meat Naturally mobile shearing focuses its shearing efforts on farming associations located more than 20 kilometers away from fixed shearing sheds. By doing so, it ensures these remote farmers have access to essential shearing services and secures a critical market for their wool. This endeavor not only eases the burden on farmers in remote areas but also streamlines the wool production process.

The MN shearing team is a well-coordinated unit comprising six expert shearers, a wool sorter, a cook, and a driver. These dedicated professionals work under the guidance of MN's field operation staff, ensuring that every step of the shearing process is carried out efficiently and effectively.

A typical day at the MNP shearing camp involves shearing approximately two hundred sheep.

The six skilled sheep shearers dedicate their expertise and precision to the task at hand, carefully removing a year's worth of wool growth from each animal. Their proficiency ensures that the process is carried out with the utmost care and respect for the sheep.

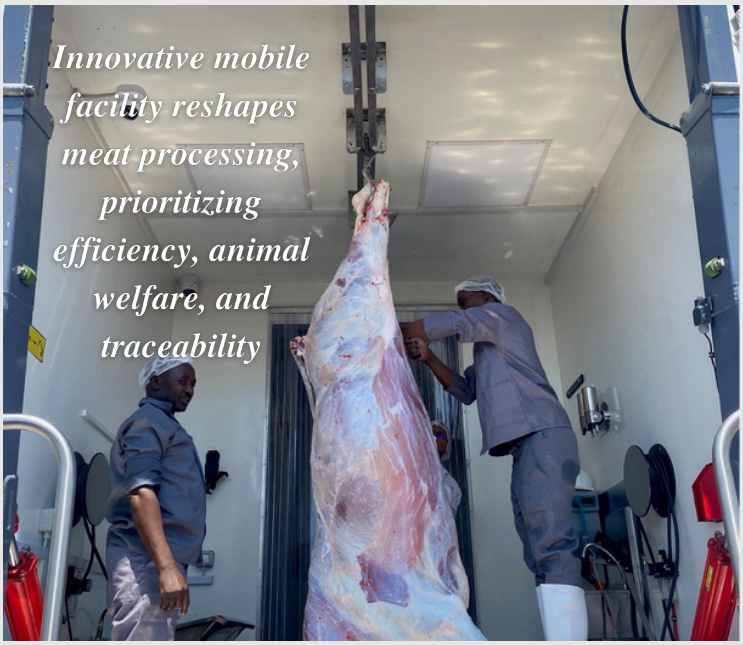
Once all the farmer's sheep have been sheared and their wool sorted, each bag is weighed. Payment is then calculated based on the weight, class, and grade of the wool for each farmer. This transparent payment system ensures that farmers receive fair compensation for their wool.

What sets MNP apart is its efficiency in providing payments. Farmers can expect to see the funds in their bank accounts within two weeks, a considerably faster turnaround compared to most fixed shed services. This quick payment process not only benefits the farmers but also enhances their overall experience with the shearing service.

The Meat Naturally mobile shearing shed has made an impressive impact on the lives of remote farmers by providing easy access to critical shearing services and faster payments. As the shearing season progresses, this initiative promises to continue benefiting farming communities and the wool industry at large.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Conservation South Africa (CSA), Conservation International (CI), and numerous individuals and organizations whose unwavering support, funding, technical expertise, and guidance were instrumental in making this groundbreaking endeavor possible.

MN KRUGER MOBILE ABATTOIR SETS NEW INDUSTRY STANDARDS



A groundbreaking event in the meat processing industry unfolded on September 29th, 2023, with the successful MN Kruger Meat Trail Slaughter. This historic achievement was made possible through the introduction of a pioneering mobile abattoir, setting a new standard for the way meat is produced, processed, and distributed.

The MN Kruger mobile abattoir is a fully equipped, state-of-the-art facility on wheels, introducing a groundbreaking shift in meat processing. This innovative solution was designed to address the challenges faced by traditional fixed-location abattoirs, including soaring transportation costs, animal welfare concerns, and restricted access to remote areas. The mobile abattoir shortens the distance between the source and the slaughter process, ensuring consumers receive fresh, high-quality meat. Moreover, it enables slaughter within the Foot and Mouth infection zone, opening up market access in remote communities that previously struggled to attain competitive market prices.

A central advantage of the MN Kruger mobile abattoir is its ability to streamline the meat production process. By eliminating the need for long-distance transportation of livestock to centralized abattoirs, this mobile facility significantly reduces stress on animals and minimizes carbon emissions associated with transportation. This heightened efficiency benefits not only the environment but also promotes a more sustainable and ethical approach to meat production.

Animal welfare has long been a significant concern in the meat industry. With the MN Kruger mobile abattoir, animal welfare is given the utmost priority. Minimizing travel time and providing a controlled, stress-free environment for slaughter, the mobile facility ensures that animals are treated with the utmost care and respect throughout the entire process. This commitment to animal welfare sets a new industry standard and reassures consumers that their meat is sourced responsibly.

The MN Kruger mobile abattoir also revolutionizes the quality control and traceability of meat products. By sourcing cattle exclusively from communities with grazing and conservation agreements in place, it ensures full traceability from source to distribution. Processing livestock on-site reduces the risk of contamination and guarantees the freshness and safety of the meat. The entire production process is closely monitored and recorded, allowing for complete traceability from farm to fork. This transparency builds consumer trust and confidence in the meat they consume.

The successful MN Kruger Meat Trail Slaughter marks a significant milestone in the meat processing industry. The introduction of the first-of-its-kind mobile abattoir revolutionizes the way meat is produced, processed, and distributed. With its increased efficiency, enhanced animal welfare standards, and improved quality control and traceability, the MN Kruger mobile abattoir sets a new benchmark for sustainable and responsible meat production. As this innovative solution gains traction, it is expected to shape the future of the industry, offering a more ethical, transparent, and environmentally friendly approach to meeting the growing demand for meat.

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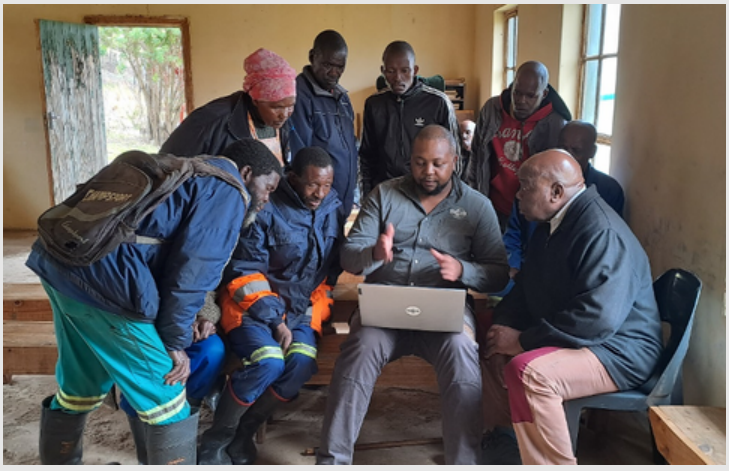
MEAT NATURALLY EXPANDS ECORANGER PROGRAM FOR RANGELAND RESTORATION IN DRAKENSBURG

Meat Naturally, a pioneer in conservation and sustainable agriculture, is taking significant steps to expand its Ecoranger program, which focuses on herding for health and rangeland restoration within the Drakensburg region. With support from the TASC-funded GRASS project, the organization has recruited new Ecoranger trainees to bolster its efforts.

he Ecoranger program is at the heart of Meat Naturally's mission to promote sustainable land use and conservation. To ensure that new recruits are equipped with the necessary skills, the training process has been carefully designed, combining both classroom instruction and in-field practical demonstrations by experienced eco-trainers.
During a week-long classroom training session, the trainees are introduced to the core concepts and principles of rangeland restoration and herding for health. Following this, they embark on in-field practical sessions where Ecotrainers provide hands-on guidance and experience. However, it's worth noting that the eco-trainers themselves are new graduates with no prior training experience.



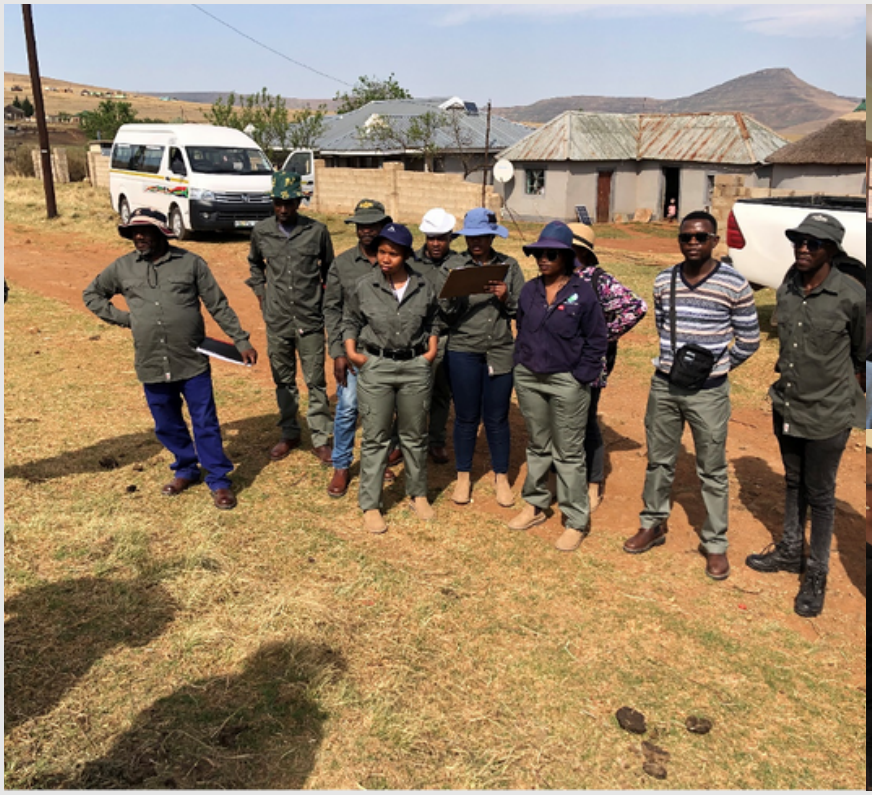
Recognizing the need for continuous improvement and development, the in-field induction of Ecoranger trainees is also coupled with mentoring for the eco-trainers and their new supervisor, Phumla Nyembezi-Thamana. This approach ensures that the staff involved in the program are constantly evolving and improving their skills for effective training services delivery.

A pivotal element of the induction process is the collaboration with local Farmers' Associations. The program actively seeks feedback and engagement with these associations to ensure alignment with the goals and expectations of the farmers. By doing so, they aim to create a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for rangeland restoration and herding for health.

The infield mentorship and induction process is proving to be a vital step in preparing Farmers' Associations to take an active role in the rangeland restoration program. This collaborative approach is steering them towards assuming full responsibility for the restoration process in the short to long term. Furthermore, it promotes a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both the farmers and the Ecorangers.

With this approach, Meat Naturally anticipates a higher level of compliance with the Rangeland Stewardship Agreement, both from the farmers and the Ecorangers, compared to previous years. As the Ecoranger program expands and evolves, it promises to make a lasting impact on rangeland restoration and sustainable agriculture in the Drakensburg region.

ECORANGER TRAINING SEASON BEGINS: A NEW COHORT OF ECOTRAINERS PREPARED FOR 2023/24 GRAZING SEASON



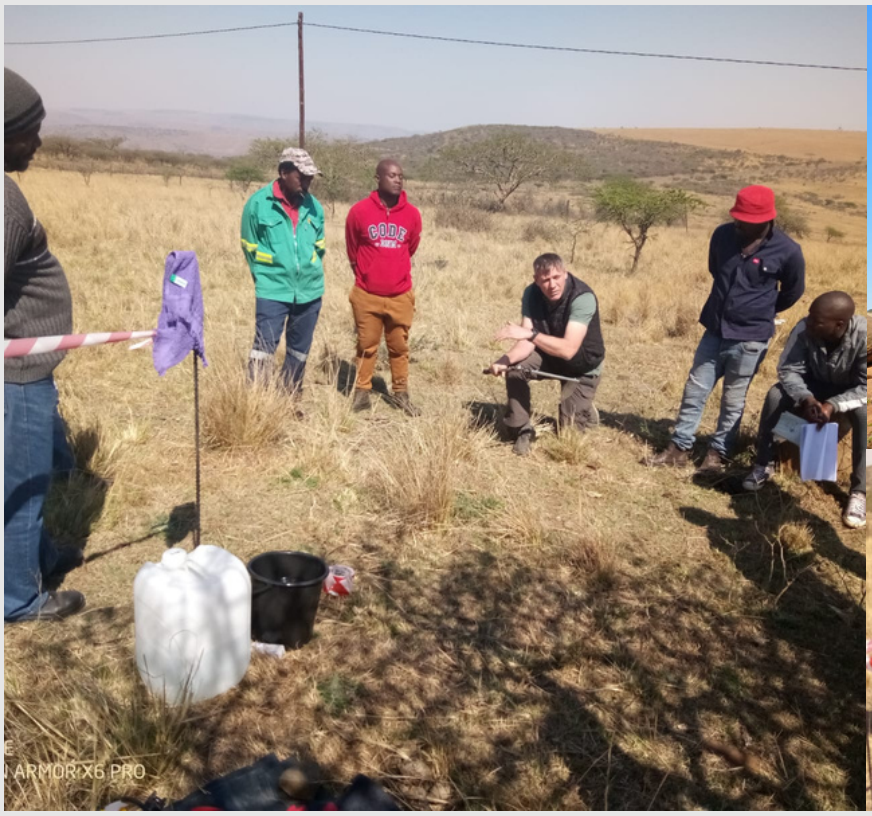
As the training season unfolds, Meat Naturally is gearing up to induct a new cohort of Ecorangers, bringing together over 300 candidates from diverse geographic regions. This ambitious undertaking has required a heightened level of commitment, the addition of new trainers, and increased support, and at the heart of this initiative are the dedicated ecotrainers.

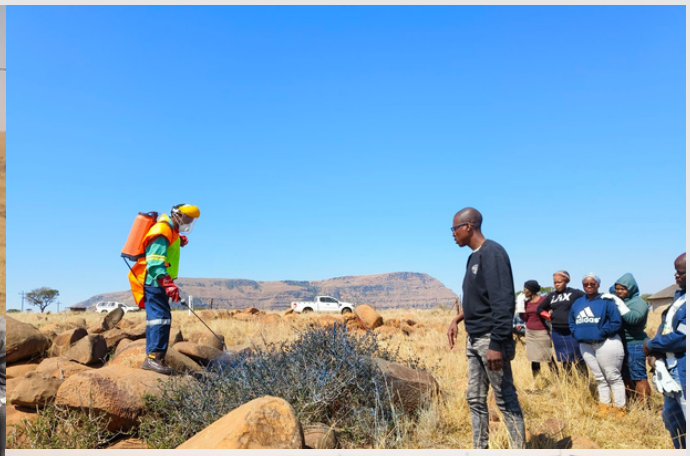
The Herding for Health program on the Drakensberg sub-escarpment was first introduced in 2021. A total of 167 Ecorangers were recruited across the Tsitsa, uMkhomazi, and uMhlathuze/uMfolozi catchments. Over the past two years, these Ecorangers have undergone comprehensive training at the Herding Academy, equipping them with essential skills in herding and grazing management.
Following rigorous performance reviews and formal assessments, 12 standout Ecorangers were selected to advance their studies with the potential to become ecotrainers. These emerging ecotrainers spent three months at the Academy, where they honed their skills and knowledge.

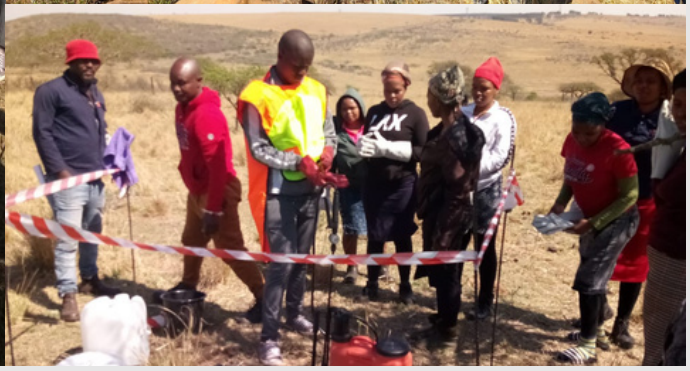
Subsequently, these promising ecotrainers moved to Matatiele for a one-week induction and focused training, aimed at implementing the Herding for Health model for Meat Naturally. The training material, meticulously prepared by the MN training team, focused on equipping ecotrainers to understand the Herding 4 Health model and its application within their respective association areas.
The comprehensive curriculum covered a range of essential topics, including the significance of regenerative grazing, low-stress livestock handling, livestock health, market access, soil erosion control, and invasive alien plant management. These subjects are crucial for the growing season and imperative for Ecorangers to grasp effectively.
In addition to classroom-based learning, Ecotrainers were introduced to different aspects of the MN business model and embarked on a field trip to a sheep shearing site in the Eastern Cape.

After a successful week of knowledge sharing and intensive training, our ecotrainers have exhibited exceptional abilities and enthusiasm. We are confident that they are well-prepared to train the new cohort of Ecorangers and assist with implementing the Herding for Health model in the field.
As the 2023/24 grazing season approaches, the expansion of the Ecoranger program with a dedicated team of ecotrainers promises a brighter and more sustainable future for the rangeland restoration and herding for health initiatives by Meat Naturally.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING EQUIPS TEAM TO COMBAT SPREAD OF LANTANA CAMARA IN GRAZING AREAS







In a determined effort to combat the rampant spread of Lantana camara throughout grazing areas, Guy Deacon and Bongumusa facilitated a comprehensive herbicide applicator training course. The training was attended by EcoRangers, members of the Fire Management Committee from the Impumelelo Farmers Association and enthusiastic community participants from the Mbekuzeni village.

The primary objective of this course was to empower participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively address the Lantana camara infestation, which has been posing a growing threat to local grazing lands.

Lantana camara (common lantana) is a species of flowering plant native to the American tropics. It is a very adaptable species, which can inhabit a wide variety of ecosystems; once it has been introduced into a habitat it spreads rapidly. The specie can outcompete indigenous species leading to a reduction in biodiversity and can also cause problems if it invades agricultural areas as a result of its toxicity to livestock, as well as its ability to form dense thickets, and if left unchecked, can greatly reduce the productivity of rangelands by suppressing the grasses essential for livestock production.

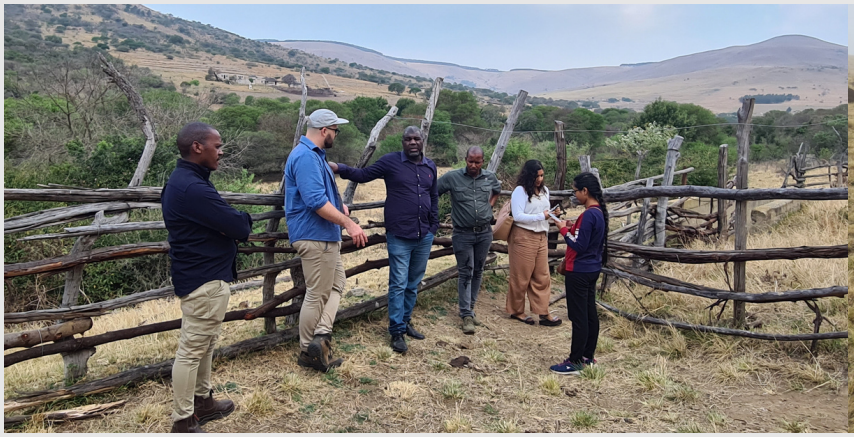
will closely monitor the progress of the team's work, guaranteeing the effecti

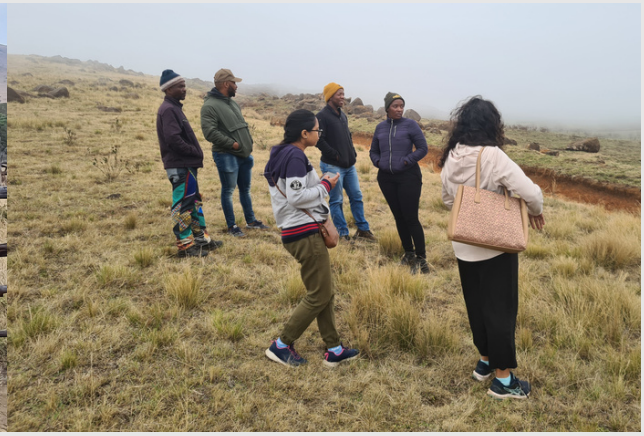
upon successful completion of the training, all 12 participants were equipped with essential tools, including herbicide applicator equipment, protective clothing, and the herbicide itself, to kick-start their mission to combat the invasive alien species.

Meat Naturally, has committed to providing ongoing mentorship and guidance to the newly trained team, ensuring they have the suppor and expertise needed to make a significant impact in their efforts to control the spread of *Lantana camara*. Furthermore, Meat Naturall will closely monitor the progress of the team's work, guaranteeing the effectiveness of their endeavours.

As the team begins its vital work, the community remains hopeful that their efforts will yield a healthier and more sustainable environment for future generations".

TASC'S GRASS PROJECT: A GREEN REVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA'S RANGELANDS





In a groundbreaking development for South Africa's environmental and agricultural landscape, TASC proudly announced he registration of its Grassland Restoration and Stewardship in South Africa (GRASS) project under Verra's VM0042 methodology. This milestone achievement marks a significant step towards restoring the country's deteriorating rangelands and mitigating climate change.

The GRASS program, which has been in operation since 2021, stands as one of Southern Africa's pioneering soil carbon projects registered under an international carbon verification standard. Its primary goal is to rejuvenate South Africa's rangelands by enhancing herd management practices, safeguarding biodiversity, and facilitating carbon sequestration. South Africa's rangelands have long suffered from a myriad of challenges, including the encroachment of non-edible invasive plants, inadequate grazing management, and the disruption of the predator-prey balance. These issues have not only degraded the soil quality but also led to poor fodder quality and limited access to animal healthcare, resulting in the emission of excessive methane into the atmosphere and unproductive livestock. Furthermore, the absence of collective grazing and fodder management has contributed to overgrazing, a decline in biodiversity, and landscape erosion.

TASC, in collaboration with Meat Naturally NPC and communal livestock farmers, is implementing a regenerative farming model to protect and restore the ancient grasslands of the Drakensberg Escarpment. This, in turn, will significantly contribute to carbon storage in the soil and the reduction of atmospheric carbon levels. TASC, leveraging its extensive experience as a financier and developer of high-impact climate mitigation projects, has provided financial support and carbon project development expertise to this transformative initiative.

Meat Naturally, a social enterprise committed to empowering rural farmers with formal business opportunities and training in regenerative farming techniques, rangeland restoration practices, and livestock management, plays a vital role in the GRASS project. The introduction of improved livestock grazing practices, including the reintegration of rest and recovery periods for rangelands, stimulates grass growth and facilitates greater carbon and water storage. The project prioritizes the active involvement of farmers at all stages and upholds the principles of free, prior, and informed decisions.

Beyond its climate mitigation benefits, the GRASS project is proving to be an engine for rural economic development. Mobile auctions and wool shearing initiatives enable small-scale farmers to access new markets, while communities have the opportunity to earn income through the sale of carbon emission reductions. The value of both livestock and carbon is further enhanced as the impacts of improved management practices are carefully monitored and audited.

Currently in its second year of implementation, the GRASS program has already improved management practices across approximately 170,000 hectares in the Drakensberg Sub-Escarpment. With ambitious plans for expansion, the project aims to encompass over 1 million hectares by 2028 and train more than 2,000 ecorangers. This growth promises to have a positive and lasting impact on climate, community, and biodiversity in the region.

The registration of TASC's GRASS project is a beacon of hope for South Africa's rangelands, offering a path towards ecological restoration, carbon sequestration, and sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. It stands as a testament to the power of collective efforts in addressing pressing environmental and economic challenges.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS